

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Reaghstown** Ref: **498**  
County: **Louth** Mark: **301**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/06/2015**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2015</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	53	53
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	38	38
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>301</b>

### **Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:**

Reaghstown is very welcome to the 2015 Supervalu Competition.

Thank you for the completed entry form and excellent map which was of great assistance to the adjudicator in finding his way around this idyllic rural village.

It was the adjudicator's first visit to Reaghstown, arriving via a rather circuitous route.

The Village may be small but it is a very well presented place set in tranquil surroundings.

The existing 3 year plan was also included but it would have been best if just a one page summary of what was done in the last year was attached with the application.

That said the entry form had all relevant information under the prescribed headings.

The Committee of 8 is just right for a village the size of Reaghstown and you can call on the support of local people as required.

One often finds this type of neighbourhood support is easier to muster in rural communities

The number of meetings held each year is quite sufficient for your needs.

Working with the residents of Mountain View, where there seems to be additional building taking place, is important and it's good to note that one of its residents is a very active member of the committee.

The use of resources via Louth Leader Partnership, County Council and the ever reliable CE Scheme is reflected all over the village.

Getting other local organisations on board is key to building up a support structure in the community and well done to the members of Westerns GFC for their unstinting backing.

Communication methods, particularly community alert texting system, are ideal as they include the old with the new.

The Reaghstown page was visited in Louth Tidy Towns Together website.

It is noted that local children go to school in Tallanstown where the national school takes a very active role in both the Green Flag and Green Home Programmes.

Congratulations on being a long time participant in the Tidy Towns competition and thank you for the positive comments on how the competition has benefitted your community, it's very pleasing to see such optimistic reaction.

### **Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:**

The adjudicator was rather amused to read about your "cajoling" of the local Village Hostelry owner and the resulting fruits of this form of communication!

Cajoling is a word that I haven't heard for some time and maybe it is particular to us rural people.

In fairness it seems that the proprietor also sponsored both a village name sign and a community watch sign, so don't be too hard on him, am I presumptuous in assuming it's a male?

The following are a few observations that the adjudicator made during the walk about.

In the core St Malachys RC Church is the focal point of the village and this was presented to very high standard so

full marks to the person or persons that have the responsibility for its up keep and the disabled access was noted. The Graveyard, which seems to be comparatively new, was very well maintained, although the painted boundary wall has been already mentioned in last year's report.

The Village Pump is in good condition and is enhanced by a colourful display of annuals houses in a permanent stone bed.

The churn arrangement depicting a different era of dairying was admired but one of the churns was knocked over and maybe the adjudicator should have restored it to an upright position instead of passing it by.

The community work shed at side of car park is made by a company which offers livestock housing solutions!

The surname of the said company is one that would not be associated with County Louth.

Dooleys on the Main N2, map does not include it within your adjudication area, is a fine establishment that was very busy on the day and serves some fine fare.

The one negative in an otherwise excellently presented premises is that the neon type restaurant sign is slightly dated and out of sync with the rest of the property.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

The standard in this category was very good.

You have succeeded in doing is creating a very effective and colourful mix of annuals that balance with the all year round planting arrangements that are seen in the outskirts such as the very fine and well maintained stone bed at the entrance to the Village off the N2 and at the Ballynabony Junction across the road.

The amenity or picnic area at the same entrance was in very good condition, grass mowed, shrub bed looking very healthy and the small car parking facility all in very good condition.

The landscaped park at the Tallanstown end of the Village was as stated in your submission well maintained as well.

There were some very nice examples of stone wall building and the adjudicator is aware that you as a community are of the Louth Bank Wall Project.

The shrub bed at the car park that serves church goers and other locals is very large and needs ongoing attention was in a very healthy state plant wise.

Some nice half barrels of geraniums and lobelia enhanced the church boundary walls and the stone beds at Welcome to Reaghstown Signs were admired for basic simple but effective arrangements.

The Village had some very nice private gardens including one near the Church with very healthy rose beds.

The very attractive cottage type residence for letting had an exquisite wildflower mix garden but maybe the plastic containers of flowers in front could be replaced by half barrels if possible.

Finally the shrub bed at the Louth Litter Medal Sign was a little bare at one end so it needs attending to.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

Well done on commissioning a bio diversity plan as it is often not possible for small communities to engage in the data collection that is part and parcel of such an undertaking.

It seems as many other centres in the County have been encouraged to get involved in drawing up bio diversity and you may have been able to piggy back on that particular county programme.

The wildflower planting off the N2 was visited and it has as you say progressed well.

The children going to school in Tallanstown NS will certainly benefit from the ongoing involvement of that school in the Green Flag scheme.

This is the first centre that I have visited in Louth that has had mentioned the involvement of a local wildlife enthusiast in indentifying the local species of wildlife that are associated with your area- local knowledge is best.

It would be an idea for next year's competition to get the Reaghstown children involved in a school project and I'm sure the Tallanstown Principle would be open to such a suggestion.

An increase of a mark is merited in this category.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

Well what a novel and practical idea in re using old telegraph poles at the wildflower planting scheme at the Danny Boy Pub.

The use of old coal bags as a membrane protection against weed growth is very innovative and has triggered off an idea in the adjudicators head.

These poles were part of the community area for decades one presumes and having been made redundant find themselves employable again within the same setting, good one.

The Louth Trashion as distinct from Threshing event has certainly exercised the minds of tidy towns' committee members in the county judging by the many references this adjudicator has observed during the course of his travels within the County.

Well done to the local student who represented the community.

The tyre project is welcomed but be sure that year on year these tyres are touched up as when they become faded they actually can look quite tatty.

Nice to see rural community togetherness in the offering of a facility by a local resident to the committee to aid the collection of rain water.

For next year also bear in mind that the revamping of this category was done to promote the concept of waste prevention rather than specifically waste management or minimisation.

Re visit [www.localprevention.ie](http://www.localprevention.ie) and also look up the EPA website for the latest on the National Strategy on Waste Prevention.

Finally the mini recycling centre was tidy and it's good to note that it is being used extensively by local residents.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

The standard in this category was quite good and the fact that the village is small points to an easier job in controlling litter.

This may not be the case as there could be areas where committees may not see on a day to day basis.

A few pieces of litter were observed in the outskirts at the little park at the Tallanstown end, in the main car park and inside the wall of the shrub bed down the road from the Pub.

"Danny Boy" has been referred to in another section but well done to him for his positive response to your "cajoling"

Overall the standard was good and on par with what last year's report indicated.

If the adjudicator can recall correctly the galvanised roof is still rusty so maybe approach the owner and do another spot of "cajoling"

Treatment with rust inhibiting primer could do the trick and maybe the committee may have the funds to incentivise him/her to get it done!

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

The Village thankfully never suffered the fate of some the neighbouring ones and other all over the country that of the ill conceived housing developments plunked into a rural setting without buy or leave.

Anyway that is for another forum.

Your village is very attractive and inviting and residents are to be commended on the manner in which they have presented properties.

It looks like that the well appointed and presented Mountain View housing area was getting a new addition or maybe an expansion of an existing premises.

Overall the standard observed warrants an extra mark.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

Very good impressions of Reaghstown are what any visitor will get as they enter from either of the main entrances.

The entrance off the N 2 is probably a little more effective than from Tallanstown as it probably has got more attention.

The name signs are very well positioned, road surfaces are good but a bit rough in patches, verges are well maintained and the stonewalls further enhance Reaghstown.

Nearly all homesteads were tidy, maybe one or two dissenters, so working with the community has paid off.

The village residents have a sense of pride of place but I suppose that is to be expected as it is a settled community and doesn't have a transient population who commute to bigger centres of population and pay very little part in helping the areas that they live in.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

The adjudicator found his visit to Reaghstown enlightening and relaxing as in equal measure. One hopes to revisit at some later stage. You are wished well for the future.